with a number of sieving panels which are substantially arranged in a transverse direction to the direction of flow of the liquid current, and which form a revolving endless sieve belt immersing into the liquid current, on which endless sieve belt a plurality of sieving panels which are sequentially arranged adjacent to one another in the direction of motion of the endless sieve belt form a common sieving surface in the sluice channel, and with a drive for the endless sieve belt,

characterized in that

the sieving panels are arranged successively on the endless sieve belt in such a way that the revolving motion of the endless sieve belt is substantially comprised within one single plane, whereby the pivotal axes about which the sieving panels are pivoted at points of deflection of the endless sieve belt are perpendicular to the sieving surface.

38. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the plane of the revolving motion of the sieving panels is substantially perpendicular to the direction of flow of the liquid current.

39. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, further comprising a guide device, in which at least some sieving panels are laterally guided.

40. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 39, wherein the sequential sieving panels on the endless sieve belt are adjacent to one another and are not linked together by connectors.

41. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the sieving panels are linked together by connectors.

42. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 41, wherein the connectors form part of a drive chain for the endless sieve belt, in particular, links of a drive chain.

43. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the sieving panels have a circular structure.

44. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the sieving panels have a crescent-shaped structure.

45. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 44, wherein the outer contours of the crescent-shaped sieving panels are respectively formed by two intersecting sections of two circles with the same radius, whereby the midpoint of the first circle, which forms the convex section of the outer contour of the sieving panel, lies on the second circle, which forms the concave section of the outer contour of the sieving panel.

46. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 44, wherein the outer contours of the crescent-shaped sieving panels are respectively formed by two non-intersecting sections of two circles with the same radius and two rectilinear, arced connecting elements which connect the circular sections.

47. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 44, wherein the crescent-shaped sieving panels are linked together by connectors, in particular, connecting rods, whereby the connectors are each coupled to a sieving panel on one side at the midpoint of the first circle, which forms the convex section of the outer contour of this sieving panel, and are coupled on the other side to the adjacent sieving panel at the midpoint of its first circle, which forms the convex section of its first circle, which forms its outer contour, and can be displaced along the convex section of the outer contour of the adjacent sieving panel.

48. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 47, wherein the connectors are each guided along the convex part of the outer contour of the associated adjacent sieving panel.

49. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 41, wherein the connectors are placed on the clean water side of the endless sieve belt.

50. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the drive comprises a drive chain which runs across an upper sprocket wheel at an upper reversal device of the endless sieve belt and across a lower sprocket wheel at a lower reversal device.

51. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 50, wherein the upper sprocket wheel can be propelled by a drive motor.

52. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the drive is a laterally arranged drive unit for propelling the endless sieve belt to which at least a part of the sieving panels can be connected over at least a portion of the revolving path of the endless sieve belt.

53. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, further comprising sieve belt struts which are located on the clean water side of the endless sieve belt, preferably near the central axis of the sieving panels.

54. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 53, wherein the endless sieve belt comprises rotating supports, e.g. support rollers or balls for support on a sieve belt strut.

55. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 54, wherein the rotating supports are located on the connectors or the sieving panels.

56. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the downward-moving part of the revolving endless sieve belt and the upward-moving part of the revolving endless sieve belt respectively substantially cover the right or left half of the liquid current, whereby a fixed center guide is arranged between the two halves.

57. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 56, wherein the center guide is permanently fixed at its lower end.

58. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 56, wherein at least some of the sieving panels are guided in the center guide.

59. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 58, wherein the sieving panels are guided on the center guide by gliding or by means of interior, rotating guide elements, e.g. guide rollers.

60. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein at least some of the sieving panels are designed to be guided in a laterally arranged guide device, preferably along the outer wall adjacent to the liquid current.

61. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 60, wherein at least some of the sieving panels are designed to be guided in the outer wall itself.

62. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 60, wherein the sieving panels can be guided on the guide device by gliding or by means of exterior guide rollers.

63. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 60, wherein the sieving panels can be dropped down into the guide device in such a way that the resulting sieving surface of the endless guide belt substantially covers over the cross-section of the liquid current with no gaps.

64. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 60, wherein the guide device or the outer wall is chamfered on the clean water side.

65. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 60, wherein the guide device has a grooved design and the guidable sieving panels are equipped with exterior guide rollers on their sides facing the guide device.

66. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, further comprising a number of spray jets to spray off the sieving panels of the endless sieve belt which are lifted from the liquid current, as well as a debris channel situated on the side of the endless sieve belt which faces the spray jets.

67. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 66, wherein the spray jets and the debris channel extend along both the downward-moving portion of the revolving endless sieve belt and the upward-moving portion of the revolving endless sieve belt.

68. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the sieving panels are formed by a sectional frame and a sieving element held in place by said frame.

69. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the selected mesh size of the sieving panels is between 0.1 mm and 10 mm, preferably between 2 mm and 4 mm.

70. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the sieving panels comprise a debris pocket on their rear end with respect to the direction of motion.

71. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the sieving panels have a polygonal structure.

72. (new) Sieving device according to Claim 37, wherein the configuration of the endless sieve belt is designed for its revolving motion in such a way that the sieving panels each submerge into and are lifted from the liquid stream in a rectilinear motion, whereby they are deflected in a substantially circular motion at a lower reversal device and an upper reversal device.

A2

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 24, 2002

George H. Spencer
Registration No. 18,038
VENABLE, LLP
Suite 1000
1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3917

Attorney's Direct Dial: (202) 962-4014
Telefax: (202) 962-8300

DESIGNATED CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

VENABLE, LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998

#346774